

wherein the first end defining a probe portion,;

an oval intermediate portion;

and an elongated terminal portion significantly, reduced in width relative to the intermediate portion, being at angle flat, twisted or bent in relation to the oval intermediate portion, for the purpose of weaving tight long term loops in natural or synthetic hair;

2.(CURRENTLY AMENDED) The hair styling tool according to claim 1, wherein the tool is fabricated of a rigid material sufficiently capable of holding it's shape without distortion.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The hairstyling tool according to claim 1, wherein the terminal portion is substantially reduced in width in relation to the intermediate portion width and is twisted, flat, or bent at an angle in a relation to the intermediate portion.

4.(CURRENTLY AMENDED) The terminal end of the probe portion being rounded.

#### **DRAWINGS:**

The attached sheet (1/4) of drawings includes changes to Fig 1 and replaces the original sheet (1/4) . The attached sheet (2/4) of drawings includes changes to Fig 1A, 2 and omits Figs 1B and 1C and replaces the original sheet (2/4). The attached sheet (3/4) of drawings includes changes to Fig 3A and 4A omits Figs 3B, 3C, and 4B, adds a new Fig 5 and replaces the original sheet. The attached sheet (4/4) renames Fig 5 to Fig 6, Fig 6 to Fig 7, Fig 7 to Fig 8 and includes changes to Fig 6,7, and 8 and replaces original sheet (3/3).

#### **REMARKS -GENERAL :**

By the above amendment Applicant has amended the title to emphasize the novelty of the invention. Applicant has amended the drawings as in required. Applicant has also rewritten all

claims to define the invention more particularly and distinctly so as to overcome the rejections and define the invention patentably over prior art.

**Claims Rejections- 35 USC s 112.**

Applicant has amended claims 1-4 to point out and distinctly claim subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant has removed the trade name Nappy Locs Tool and replaced it with Hair Weaving Tool to reflect the requirement of 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph. Applicant has amended claims 1-4 to point out and distinctly claim subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant has removed the term “said pinch” from claims 1-4 to accurately depict the limitations of each claim.

**Claims Rejections-35 USC s 102**

**The rejection of claim 1 Tsujioka (Japanese Pat # 406284922A0) overcome**

This Office action rejected the claim 1 and has been rewritten to define the patent ability over Tsujioka . Applicant request reconsideration of this rejection, as new applicable claim 1, for the following reasons:

(1) The device patented by Tsujioka describes a pinch which is reduced relatively in proportion to the oval. This pinch as described is not designed to tightly hold sections of hair for multiple looping of intricate weaving patterns. On the contrary Tsujioka’s the pinch is only slightly smaller than the oval portion and the hair tail is facilitated by the use of an elastic band.

Tsujioka’s pinch is designed to facilitate guiding the hair during a minimum 1 or two loops for

short term hairstyle in straight hair.

The Applicant's pinch is elongated and significantly reduced in width in relation to the oval intermediate portion. The hair is slid up into the terminal end or pinch portion where it is held secure, to create the more intricate, tight looping patterns needed for the more long term hairstyles. The Applicant's invention does not utilize an elastic band as the loops or knots formed by the tool hold themselves. The pinch securely holds the hair while multiple high number loops are formed.

(2) Tsujioka's patent depicts a flat implement which acts as a saw, causing breakage during high numbers of looping of kinky hair types.

The Applicant's invention is smooth and cylindrical which allows for smooth penetration of all types of hair sections without breakage or sawing.

**The rejection of claim 3 Tsujioka (Japanese Pat # 406284922A0) overcome**

This Office action rejected the claims 3 and has been rewritten to define the patent ability over Tsujioka. Applicant request reconsideration of this rejection, as new applicable claim 3, for the following reasons

(1) Tsujioka's invention has a round end terminal portion.

This Applicant's invention has an elongated terminal portion which is flat, twisted, or bent an angle in relation to the oval intermediate portion.

The Applicants pinch is shaped distinctively from the Tsujioka's invention. Furthermore the flexed, bent, or twisted terminal end secures the hair section tighter.

**The rejection of claim 4 Tsujioka (Japanese Pat # 406284922A0) overcome**

This Office action rejected the claims 4 and has been rewritten to define the patent ability over Tsujioka . Applicant request reconsideration of this rejection, as new applicable claim 4, for the following reasons:

(1) Tsujioka's invention has a pointed tail portion. The pointed tail portion is not suitable for close quartered or high numbered looping as the pointed tail increases the chance of scalp abrasion.

The Applicant's rounded end of the probe is gentle and less likely to cause scalp abrasions as found in pointy ended implements. High numbered looping actions in sections of hair as small as 1/8 in diameter are best facilitated with a more rounded end tip that gently sections the hair.

**Claims Rejections-35 USC s 103**

**The rejection of claim 2 Tsujioka (Japanese Pat # 406284922A0) overcome**

This Office action rejected the claim 2 and has been rewritten to define the patent ability over Tsujioka . Applicant request reconsideration of this rejection, as new applicable claim 2, for the following reasons

(1) Tsujioka's invention is plastic and designed to distort as it passes behind the elastic ponytail holder as it forms the loop. Though this invention can be made out of a flexible metal the patent calls for plastic so as to maintain this distort-able nature of the ponytail looping devices.

The Applicant claim 2 requires a non distort able material which holds it's shape during the looping process. A sufficiently rigid non distort able tool is imperative as the rigidity helps to

make tight , close loops without the aid of an elastic ponytail holder.

**The rejection of Prior Art Caranicas and Skinner overcome**

This Office action rejected of prior art and has been rewritten to define the patent ability over Caranicas and Skinner . Applicant request reconsideration of this rejection, as new applicable claim 1, for the following reasons:

Caranicas and Skinner inventions are flexible hairpins designed to hold hair or secure rollers in place. These two inventions are designed to hold the hair stationary. Caranicas' invention has a flexible hook which becomes entangled while looping and the invention itself is designed to conform to the shape of the head. Skinner's invention a flexible open ended, two legged hair pin. The open two legged design is also unsuitable for hair looping.

(1) As stated above the Applicant's invention is designed to be rigid without any flexible, open, or hinged parts. The Applicants' invention holds the hair securely while looping without any hooks or extra legs to become entangled while looping.

(2) The hair pin field is crowded and quite old and any improvements over past invention should be viewed as novel and not obvious. The Applicant's invention is a closed instrument with no moving hinges and is sufficiently ridged so as not to distort or flex.

**The rejection of Prior Art Armstrong and Stimson overcome**

This Office action rejected of prior art and has been rewritten to define the patent ability over Singleton, Armstrong, and Stimson . Applicant request reconsideration of this rejection, as new applicable claim 1, for the following reasons

Singleton, Armstrong, and Stimson inventions are rigid needles with various eye modifications. None of these inventions are directed at the hairstyling industry, nor do the designs lend themselves to be used by such. The needle industry is also an old and crowded field and any modifications should be viewed as patent able.

(1) The Applicants invention uses a gentle holding terminal end while looping. It's elongated design is not present in cited references. The rounded terminal probe end is gentler to the scalp than the pointed ends of the needles

(2) These inventions do not have any safe holding mechanisms to secure the hair while looping the hair. The Applicants elongated terminal portion and intermediate oval makes threading and securing hair easier and less prone to damage.

(3) These inventions are designed and best loop thread and yarn as opposed to hair.

(4) Looping the hair by these inventions would cause scalp abrasion, hair breakage and an unflattering hair style.

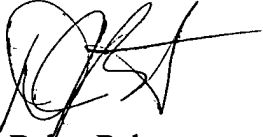
(5) The applicant's invention has overcome all of these negative features presented by the above.

## **CONCLUSION**

For all of the above reasons, applicant submit that the specification and claims are now in proper form and all claims define patent ability over the prior art. Applicant has also included a declaration and documents which support its novelty, unobvious -ness, and patentably over prior art. Therefore Applicant submit this application is now in condition for allowance, which action we now respectfully submit.

If for any reason this application is not believed to be in full condition for allowance, applicant respectfully request the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner pursuant to M.P.E.P. s 2173.02 and s 707.07 (f) in order that the applicant can place this application in allowable condition as soon as possible and without need for further proceedings.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Debra Belton', written over a horizontal line.

Debra Belton

Applicant Pro Se

Enclosed New Drawing Sheets 1-4

Declaration.

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